WENDELL POST

March/April '96

Vol. 19 # 6

"HERALD OF SPRING"
Smiley Springtimer, Eric DEW

50¢ (cheap)

FIRE DESTROYS HISTORIC HOME

WENDELL FIRE

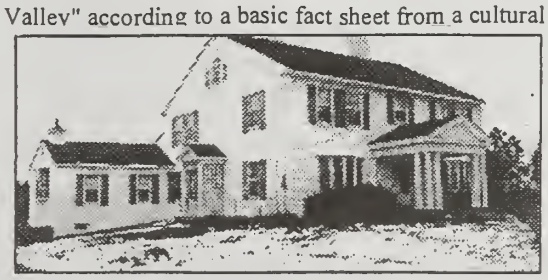
On Friday January 19, 1996 Cathy and Larry Eckert were driving north on Wendell Depot Road when they noticed smoke and flames coming from the back of Michael Brooks' home, the beautiful old house known to Wendellites as the Sogards' house. The Eckerts turned around and drove back up to Christine Heard's house where they called in the fire alarm to 911 at 1:06 p.m. Tom Chaisson made another call to 911 shortly afterwards.

Andy Hamilton, the first Wendell fireman on the scene, arrived about ten minutes later to find the back half of the house fully involved. Fire Chief Everett Ricketts responded to the call from his job in Northfield. Upon his arrival he noted four major problems: 1) it was a very windy day; 2) the fire had a good start before it was even noticed; 3) the power was still on with a live wire overhead across the driveway; 4) the front door was locked and could not be opened and the back door was involved in the fire. The wind and the fire's head start were two major strikes against the fire fighters. The live wire and short driveway created a tight space for trucks and men to maneuver in. Unable to enter the house, the firemen could not effect a rescue of Brooks' two Rottweilers. Ricketts reports that there was a good supply of water delivered by the tanker trucks until the fire was nearly extinguished. When asked why the firemen used Bowen's Pond as a water source instead of Brooks' swimming pool which had 35,000 gallons of water in it, Ricketts replied that the water in the pool was slushy and could not be pumped through their hoses.

Brooks returned home in the late afternoon to find his house burned nearly to the ground. While he was talking to Ricketts a fire fighter came up to report that they had found the body of one of his dogs. The other dog's body was found soon after. Brooks was devastated to have these losses confirmed. He reported that he usually left the dogs in their kennels in the barn, but had put them inside the house that day since he did not plan to be gone long.

Brooks said that extensive investigations were undertaken by the insurers and by the State Arson Squad. The conclusion is that the fire was caused by old wiring. Brooks had a list of projects he planned to accomplish; replacing wiring was on the list. He remarked he would certainly have given it a higher priority had he known it was so dangerous.

Wendell lost an historic home. The house, built in 1778 according to a sign on its front porch, "fits the idea of the 'mansion' house of the Connecticut River Valley" according to a basic fact sheet from a cultural



resource survey done in 1986 by Jean Forward, member of the Wendell Historical Commission. Forward reports the house was one of three two-story pre-1800 homes in Wendell. (The other two are the main house at Lake Grove Maple Valley School and the house across from the Country Store.) It was exceptionally well built and well maintained with two main chimneys and eight fireplaces. The cellar is sturdy; the house had a basic, 4 over 4 large rooms design. The central hall contained a large impressive stairway. A back stairway led up from the kitchen. Four more rooms had been finished on the third floor.

Possibly the house had been built near a "mount," a fortified 4'x4' tower used as a fort and a lookout.

continued pg.3...

LOCAL EDUCATOR RECOGNIZED

ANNE PERKINS RECEIVES
PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY AWARD

Community Health Educator Anne Perkins of Wendell received the Public Policy & Advocacy Award from the Family Planning Council in January. This award recognizes FPC staff who promote sensitive and appropriate public policies. Anne has been working with the FPC's Breast Health Services since 1994. Typical of her hard-nosed work ethic, Anne doesn't leave her job when she leaves the office. She is constantly scanning the news, reading beyond the headlines to see what the real story is behind breast cancer research, advocacy, and legislation. This past year, her aggressive advocacy earned her an invitation from the Pentagon to be one of two consumers in the country who reviewed breast cancer research proposals. That panel made recommendations on the allocation of $150 million in research funds. Thank you and congratulations, Anne!

TOWN ELECTIONS
"1st MONDAY in MAY"
= May 6th

WENDELL POST

CONTACT STAFF

Kathy Becker 544-5557
Gloria Kegeles 544-0922

STAFF

Kathy Becker, Stephen Broll, Anne Diemand, Tessa Diemand, Francis Doughty, Laura Doughty, Christine Heard, Ina LeVangie, Joe Coll, Linda Hickman, Gloria Kegeles, Nina Keller, Dona O'Dou, Ina Phelps, Roni Stowell, Shirley White, Josh Heinemann, Kathy Swaim, Margo Culley, Beth McConnell

CONTRIBUTORS

Ed Chase, Marion Herrick, Bob Leet, Elizabeth Scully, Judy Wilder, Molly Kaynor, Anna Hartjens, Rosie Heidkamp, Everett Ricketts, Matt Stamell, Bill Lafley, Charles Smith, Wendell Country Store, Wendell Senior Center

Advertising:Gloria Kegeles 544-0922
Delivery: Nina Keller, Kathy Becker and Anne Diemand
Photographers: Gloria Kegeles and Linda Hickman
Treasurer: Ina Phelps
Printer: Highland Press
Cover Art: Gloria Kegeles

POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

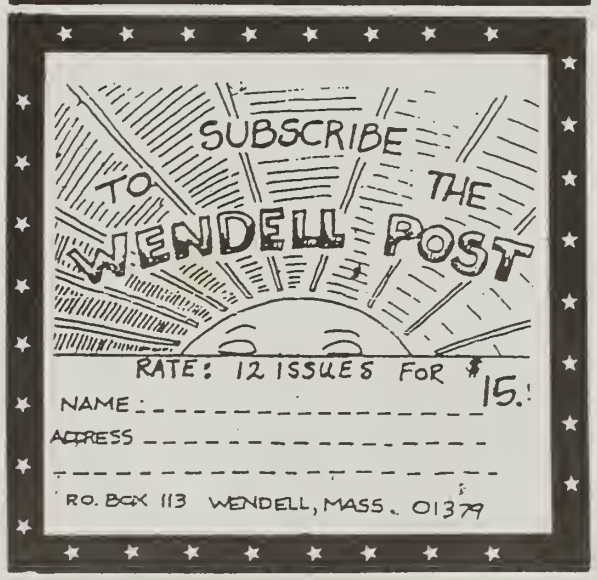
All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: 3 3/4" wide, 10 point font size, standard font. Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.

ADS $7.50 business card!



LETTERS

To the Wendell Post:

After reading Mr. Altman's New Year's Message in the last Post, I felt I had to respond. Maybe just to give some perspective of how it all began almost 8 years ago when the D & B landfill was given its site asignment; I was one of the three members of the Wendell Board of Health (BoH). All three of us were just regular folk who were doing our share of civic responsibility by serving on a town board. Mostly we checked out septic designs, ran rabies clinics, inspected the schools and stores once a year, and tried to oversee the town landfill that became a transfer station and great recycling center.

Then one day Joe Diemand, Dean Bennett and their consulting engineer came to a meeting with a problem and a proposal to solve it. It seems that part of Joe's salvage yard was a quagmire of mud during parts of the year. He told us how he went to Dean and asked him to bring in some fill; however, the expense was way too high. But Dean had a solution to the problem. If we (the BoH) would allow them to bring in clean fill (demolition debris) as a foundation then the salvage yard could be paved, thus making it a safer place to store the cars.

I can not speak for the other two members of the board; however, here's what went through my mind.

1) Having grown up on a small farm in a rural area and seeing signs stating "dump clean fill here" and then seeing the resulting loads of gravel, rocks, old bricks, pieces of cement blocks, etc. dumped in those places, that was what was in my mind during the resulting discussion.

2) Having a level, cleanable area where Joe's cars could be stored and not sinking into the mud and sliding downhill sounded great. No mention was even made of the nearness of Lyons Brook or the Millers River.

3) Joe and I may have different approaches to many things but I've always known him to be honest and a hard-working member of my community who was trying to make a living in town--and he was recycling.

4) The project was discussed in terms of the size of the salvage yard --the area to be fixed, not the number of cubic yards or number of truckloads of material.

So, we voted yes and said something like "sure sounds good, what's next". We (the BoH) had just granted a site assignment. Later we learned the "what's next" part was out of our hands, that there was a state process for siting a landfill, and that by our simple vote we had turned over our local control without our knowledge. The state Dept. of Quality Engineering (now DEP) took over and Wendell only had "input", not total decision-making.

Sure there were many, many more meetings and hearings (never intentionally posted "quietly in the summer when people were away"--but held according to the state's time frame) and new engineers and new and bigger and BIGGER plans. But the decisions left to Wendell at that point were not the big ones.

The question of the town's receiving money did not come up at the initial meeting--another area of ignorance, because if we had known (and still wanted a landfill) we could have negotiated for an even bigger cut! So, the "almighty dollar" had no influence on our vote--just the concern of helping a neighbor improve his local business and his life. The landfill we initially approved is not the landfill that exists today. Joe Diemand will never get to build his salvage yard where he wanted. I wonder if he is as dismayed as I am.

In hindsight I think our "mistake" was in not postponing our decision until we could have visited the site, asked for neighbors' opinions, hired an outside consultant and looked into the whole siting process. I will forever regret my ignorance. I hope that we all learn from this episode in our history and that we may be ever vigilant in the future.

I support Kathy Becker's idea that it is now up to the citizens of Wendell to take an active role in ensuring that the landfill operates and is maintained in as safe a way as possible. How about a "Watchdog Committee" established by either the Selectboard or the BoH. Those members of the community who have interest and/or expertise in this area could now step forward and get involved in a positive way.

Sharon Gensler
former BoH Member

New Years Message from Robert Altman ; Chapter Two

Since publishing my letter to the Wendell Post in the January issue voicing my concerns about the D&B Landfill, I have received a surprising response. Not support from the community as I would have hoped, but from the law firm of Kearney & Gleason in Boston, representing D&B, threatening to sue me for libel and mental suffering caused as a result of my using the words "toxic waste dump" to describe their operation. I was also accused of holding their client " up to scorn and ridicule in the community among a considerable and respectable class of people."

A retraction of my statement was requested, the result of my not doing so would result in my being sued in Franklin County Court. I have received two threatening letters and one threatening message on my answering machine from a Mr. Gregg Wilson, representing D&B.

Cont. →

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I have been advise that my statements in the Post are specifically protected by law (Mass General Law Chapter 231 sec 59 H) . I have also been advised that the sort of assault I have been subject to is an all too common technique used to limit public participation. It is my understanding that similar letters were sent by attorney Wilson to at least two citizens of Northfield attempting to limit their public participation in DEP site assignment processes relating to the proposed composting plant there.

My grandfather taught me to choose my battles carefully. A pissing contest with Kearney and Gleason or D&B is not what I want to get into at this point in my life. So a retraction is in order.

The intent of my letter was simply to point out the irony of a so called ecologically conscious community like Wendell allowing a "demolition landfill" to be built in their fair town with but a whimper of concern.

My use of the words " toxic waste dump" was incorrect as the D&B is licensed as a "Demolition Landfill" by the state. No ill will was intended to the individuals involved in D&B by my letter to the Post.

What led me, in my ignorance, to use the dreaded "T" word in my letter was a report I read from Delta Engineers of Binghampton, NY analyzing the leachate collection cells at the D&B Landfill. Found in these cells are trichloroethene and trichlorofloromethane. These substances are listed by the EPA as priority toxic pollutants.

Robert Altman
New Salem, March 3, 1996

The disgruntled neighbors of the D&B dump are wondering why the supposed air filters don't work. It still stinks. Nina Keller

To the Wendell Post:

In response to Parker Cleveland's article in the Wendell Post concerning Community Development, I wish to add my opinion.

We in this lovely town of Wendell live in a world that is interconnected to a larger world in a huge universe with a tremendous history of lives behind us. I believe Wendell has always thrived on commerce from the outside as well as having folks being able to live exclusively within the town economy. I don't think that people conducting business outside of town, perhaps providing jobs and income, be it within the US or to other countries, is necessarily a bad thing for Wendell nor for the other communities with whom we may choose to trade.

With regard to the phrase "heal the split between the economic activity and our spiritual sensitivities", I think one's relationship to their own spiritual life has little to do with their own mode of employment be it on a cooperative farm or on Wall Street. It's what is coming from the individual's own heart and mind that matters.

Some of the most "spiritually" motivated people in the world might never give much thought to their "spiritual lives". I have trouble with the word spiritual, because it means so many things to so many individuals now and in times past. I don't think for the most part people are "good" or "bad"--people will make all kinds of decisions during their lives. As a great baseball player once said, "It ain't over till it's over".

People need to do what feels right for them, providing they do not hurt others. We are so fortunate to live in this time in history when we have so many opportunities (really; think about the last century alone, living during the World Wars, the depression and Vietnam when less choices were available). If someone wants to do right by his or her community they will. Their way of going about their life is their way, that's what makes living in a relatively free country so exciting.

Never judge a person by the length of their hair and God bless the folks of Wendell and beyond.

C. Pommer

Ruins of historic Sogard house after January 19 fire

These mounts were built by communities in the Connecticut River valley as protection during the French/English/Native American hostilities. "The original builder of this square, well-built structure is unknown," according to Forward's unpublished History of Wendell. A John Houghton who was listed in the 1790 census along with two free white women (wife and daughter perhaps) and a free white male under 16 years old (son perhaps) may have been the builder and original owner. A map from 1858 indicates that the owner's name was Lavery; an 1871 map shows Holston as owner. Clearly the loss of this home is a serious blow to Wendell's history.

Michael Brooks has suffered an incredible loss ... his home, his canine companions, and nearly all his belongings. Brooks, who was born in Clinton, Massachusetts, served for 20 years as a communications expert in the U.S. Marines and then for 23 years in the same capacity in the civil service. He retired from his position as Director of Communications for U.S. Naval and N.A.T.O. forces in Europe in June, 1994. He is still undergoing surgery and treatment for a spinal injury he received in an explosion in Vietnam. While searching for a place to settle after retiring, he heard of the Sogards' house through his daughter-in-law who is Pat Sogard's niece. He bought the house and 20 acres of fields, thinking it would be a good spot to raise and breed his Rottweilers.

However, Brooks reported that he found Wendell very isolated and that it was difficult for him to adjust to living in such a remote area after his years in Europe. He is also unhappy with Wendell's high tax rate and feels that taxpayers receive few services in exchange. Brooks had put the house on the real estate market in early December, just six weeks before the fire. He wanted to test the market and was not necessarily planning to sell the house.

Brooks has retrieved a few coins from his coin collection and some unbroken wine glasses from the ruins. He described several collections he kept in the house: papier mâché Santa Clauses, hand carved wooden tree ornaments, David Winter hand carved rock statues. He said that every day he thinks of more things lost in the fire, that every time he goes in the store he sees another thing that he had owned. He has urged his sons to buy a fireproof safe to keep valuables in.

But Brooks' biggest loss is his dogs, Troy and Dallas. Brooks, a Cowboys fan who attends the Super Bowl every year, described Dallas' love for TV. She liked to watch certain shows and barked when it was time to turn on the TV. She watched them avidly, like a child, and often licked the TV screen.

Brooks is staying in a motel for now. He is grateful to the many people in Wendell and nearby towns who have offered him a place to stay, food, even a Rottweiler puppy. His plans for the future are very much up in the air. For now he is trying to complete the list of possessions he has lost for the insurance company, then will take a trip to London as he had planned earlier.

Christine Heard

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News From the State Forest

Leo Spinner is a young herpetologist and naturalist from New Bedford. Leo and his assistant put on quite a show at the Royalston town Hall during the February school vacation - snakes, turtles, frogs, and one Iguana Lizard. I learned some things about the snapping turtle, a common resident in all of our ponds. Leo had a snapping turtle that was very big - nearly as big as a bathroom medicine cabinet - from head to tail it was over two feet! It was about 14 years old, and would get a little larger but not by much. How old do they get? Maybe 70 years old, but no one really knows and they probably won't tell you if you ask one.

Last July I had to move one big snapping turtle at the park. The Enchanted Forest Summer Camp was in its first or second week and here was this big turtle up on land moving toward the pond 150 feet away. The children were all in a circle around it and as the snapping turtle moved the circle around it moved. When the turtle stopped the children stopped. No one got closer than eight feet away. I joined the circle and it was a scene I'll say as over the grass and onto the road moved the turtle and his circle of admirers.

Well I thought that if we let him lumber onto the beach and into the water it would be bad for business so I maneuvered the pickup truck and went to pick him up by the tail which I did and hiked him up into the truck and drove him up the road to a beaver pond. I looked back at mister snapping turtle and he was on his back feet (with big claws) trying to climb out of the truck! I arrived at the beaver pond, got the turtle out and onto the ground. He moved a few feet and stopped. I drove back to the park area - I had to wash my hands.

Well anyway, back to Leo Spinner and his big turtle. When Leo lifted this big snapper he lifted it by the tail just enough to slide his hand up under the turtle's bottom shell and lifted it that way. He said it could hurt a snapping turtle by holding it by the tail as the vertebrae inside extends all the way to the tail. So there. But remember when you handle a big snapping turtle be slow and calm about it so as not to scare it - thats when they snap. And of course you will have to wash your hands good afterward if you get my meaning.

Thinking about it, not many of us will want to pick up and move any big turtle, but I thought I should that day - this big guy(or girl) would have created a swath through the visitors on the beach and then who would stay in the water once the turtle went in?

Makes life fun don't you think?

-- From Pond Life Central,
Hal "snappin' turtle" Stowell

SPRINGS IN THE AIR!
reports Charles Smith
at the WRATS

Wendell Weather

"Everyone looks forward to spring. And so do we. But we want each season in its turn. We want all the changes of the weather. We want the year complete."

Edwin Way Teale

As our wood piles diminish and the days grow longer we all look forward to the life reviving light and warmth of spring. Almost every day it seems morning light comes through the window a bit earlier and lingers just a little longer each evening. A check of the almanac shows that these late February days are about an hour and 50 minutes longer than the solstice and getting longer by 3 or 4 minutes each day.

By the way my records show the robin, a traditional harbinger of spring, arrives in Wendell between the 2nd and 22nd of March so keep a lookout.

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Avg H Temp	63	42	31
Avg L Temp	41	25	15
Mean	51.7	33.9	22.8
Avg Mean(88-94)	47.5	41.6	25.6
Rain	11.55	4.35	1.9
Snow	0	8.9	28.75

The fall probably seems like a distant memory to most folks but a computer crash and a busy holiday season caused me to miss an issue. October was not only the rainiest October it was the rainiest month I've recorded with almost a foot of rain falling.

November was my coldest on record (7.5 degrees below "normal") and both November and December had the most snow. So far this winter we've had 89.9" of snow! That's about 7.5 feet! Believe it or not we still need about 11.5" more to surpass the winter of 1992/93.

Bill Lafley

Another landmark was lost this season to the extreme weight of snow and soaking rain. The old Ballou barn, on the Gross property, had a large milking parlor. Now she's gone.

WENDELL FIRE DEPT. INCIDENTS

10-2-95	Smoke/Fumes Investigation	Elm St
10-6-95	Electrical Fire/Investigation	Wendell Depot Rd.
10-15-95	Medical Call	1 Elm St.
10-16-95	Medical Emergency	Lake Grove School
10-18-95	Vehicle Accident	Mormon Hollow Rd.
10-30-95	Vehicle Rollover	Jennison Rd.
11-2-95	Flamm. Liquid Spill	Lake Grove School
11-16-95	Medical Call	151 West St.
11-19-95	Medical Call	Lake Grove School
11-30-95	Mutual Aid	Shutesbury
12-1-95	Flam. Liquid Spill/Accident	Wendell Country Store
12-4-95	Emergency Cellar Pumpout	6A Elm St.
12-11-95	School bus/Vehicle Accider	Wendell Depot Rd.
12-16-95	Medical Call	Lake Grove School
12-31-95	Vehicle Rollover	Wendell Depot Rd.
1-1-96	Medical Call	Stone Rd.
1\7\96	Chimney Fire	Center St.
1-18-96	Barn Collapse Call	Wendell Depot Rd.
1\19\96	Structure Fire	Wendell Depot Rd.
1\19\96	Cellar Pumpout	Lockes Village Rd.
1\20\96	Re-kindle	Wendell Depot Rd.
1\21\96	Re-kindle	Wendell Depot Rd.
1\22\96	Fire Investigation	Wendell Depot Rd.
1\23\96	Smoke/Fumes Investigation	Morse Village Rd.
2\7\96	Medical Call	54 Montague Rd.
2\1996	Medical Call	Lake Grove School
2\23\96	Ice Rescue	Lockes Village Rd.

Burning season for brush piles is Jan. 15 through April 30. Burning hours are 10 am to 4 pm. Forest Wardens are Ted Lewis 544-3320
Anne Diemand 544-6111/544-3806
Everett Ricketts 544-3494
Permits are given out on a daily basis weather permitting.

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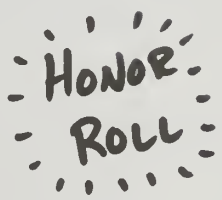

MIDDLE SCHOOL
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Ras Smallidge
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Mara J. Gross*
Kelsey K. Flynn*
Kaylan A. Hubbard*
Seth Lawrence-Slavas
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Stephanie A. Clark
Leah D. Tanner

GRADES 9-12
Meghan M. Clark
Caralee U. Manley*
Kyle Gilman
Sarah Beth Woodward
Nathan E. Boland*
Gabriel G. Drohen
Donald H. Clark Jr.
Noah Lawrence-Slavas
Rebecca Leigh Snyder

N.M.H.

NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON
academic honors

Clara Keller
Shoshanna Gross
Caleb Keller

Public Forums Scheduled to Discuss Restructuring at Mahar

An AdHoc Committee of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School Committee has been examining the possible restructuring of grades 9-12 at the school. The Committee to Restructure High School Education was formed to determine how best to incorporate the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1993 into improved quality educational opportunities for the students it serves. It is in fact a continuation of a process begun six years ago when grades 7 and 8 were restructured with the establishment of the Middle School concept.

The AdHoc Committee includes school committee members, school council members, teachers, administrators, students, parents, and other community members interested in quality education. Possible recommendations for areas of change could include the length of the school day and year, the length of the class periods, variety of teaching styles and a curriculum which emphasizes critical thinking skills.

In order to keep the citizens of the Mahar Community informed of their work to date, and to encourage input from all interested parties, the AdHoc Committee, with the cooperation of the district's elementary school systems, is sponsoring a series of public forums. The first of these meetings was held at the Swift River School on February 15. The attendance at that time was scarce and citizens of Wendell and New Salem who were unable to be present are encouraged to attend one of the remaining meetings. Meetings are scheduled to be held:

- Wednesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Petersham Center School in Petersham.
- Thursday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m., at Butterfield School in Orange.
- Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mahar Regional School cafeteria as part of the monthly Parents, Teachers and Friends meeting.

The Committee's goal is to begin implementing changes with the 1997-98 school year.

Eileen M. Perkins
Superintendent
Mahar Regional School District

BUS STOP MADNESS

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOUSE NUMBERING

Some exciting new things are continuing to happen at Swift River Elementary School. Many parents are joining the various committees that have been organized in the last year. One of those committees is the School Bus Safety Committee. One of the concerns expressed during our discussions with committee members and bus drivers is a problem caused by the lack of complete house numbering.

At this time I would like to strongly urge the residents of Wendell to take a look at the location of their posted house number. If you have never gotten around to displaying your house number or your number needs a touch up, we would really appreciate it if you could find the time this spring to see to that task.

New or replacement drivers have a difficult time finding the correct bus stops because we are unable, at this time, to generate a list of children with assigned house numbers because the numbering as it now stands, is inconsistent.

One aspect of bus safety is knowing that your child will be picked up and dropped off consistently at a predetermined location. Please help us to achieve this goal.
(Respectfully submitted by the School Bus Safety Committee)

HOT IDEAS!

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY BRINGS THE CARIBBEAN TO US THIS WINTER!

February can seem to be the coldest and dullest time of year, but this year the Swift River School escaped to sunny Puerto Rico through the Celebrating Diversity program.

If you experienced blowing into the school from icy roads and February snowstorms, you know what a refreshing treat it was to get the spicy and colorful impressions of the Caribbean island sailing through the hallways where the bulletin boards and display cases were brimming with samples of Puerto Rican folklore, food, wildlife, carnivals, beaches and forests.

Celebrating Puerto Rico began at the end of January. All classes participated in an introduction to Puerto Rico by visiting Explora-stations where students were able to try out Puerto Rican games and music, they became familiar with the food by making fruit drinks, salads and salsas, they learned some language by creating skits which were based on Puerto Rican folk tales. They explored the island's geography and politics through films, maps and stories, and discovered facts about tropical rain forests, and followed the paths the Taino natives wove through the beaches and mountains long ago. Everyone enjoyed experimenting with crafts where students made paper flowers, masks, seed necklaces, murals... They also were able to identify with the daily lives of the members of a contemporary family in Puerto Rico through a photo essay which was lent to our school by the Boston Children's Museum. Teachers have led more elaborate studies of these activities in their classrooms since.

Our school has hosted many professional educators, storytellers, cooks and dancers from Puerto Rico, graphic artists, musicians, and actors have all come to help bring the culture to life; tostones were made by the students during cooking workshops led by Olga and Ismael Samalot. Visual arts workshops have been offered to all classes with Lydia Grey and Kerry Verney Stone where students have been making molas, pinatas, masks, clay artifacts, exotic fruit bowls, and pottery influenced by their study of Taino crafts. The whole school also felt the festive and invigorating rhythms of the music, and learned the graceful movements of the Merenge, Plena, Mambo and the Salsa demonstrated by Olga Vaquer de Samalot. There was a trip to Shea Theater to see the Enchanted Circle Theater's presentation of Latino Voices, followed by theater workshops based on Taino culture and conflict resolution with Magdelena Gomez, and Erin Williams who also led workshops on story telling and folklore. Judy Grupenhoff has developed a Web Site on our school computers which includes E-Mail access to Puerto Rico. The 5th and 6th graders conducted a pen-pal exchange with the bilingual Sullivan School in Holyoke, and will visit each other's schools, and sing Puerto Rican songs together at the Swift River School with Ed Hines and Jose Gonzalez.

The March 13 Fiesta concluded the program. The evening included students' art displays, a choral performance by the whole school led by Ed Hines, and a dance performance by Olga Vaquer de Samalot.

Celebrating Diversity is a group effort. Thanks to Erin Williams for finding the funding and designing the program, the Celebrating Diversity committee for organizing and implementing the curriculum, and the teachers for incorporating the special events and workshops into their schedules, as well as the many volunteers and instructors who have made these events possible. Celebrating Diversity has once again successfully given the life-long gift of cultural and global awareness to our young people.

This program is provided to our school by grants in collaboration with the 1794 Meeting House in New Salem, and is funded in part by the Wendell and New Salem Cultural Councils, the Franklin County Business fund for the arts, the New Salem Academy, and the Mass. Cultural Council which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Many thanks to all involved in making this program so rich.

Whether or not you have children at the school, your interest is important (the education of our children affects us all). In order for this program to continue in our school, community feedback is needed. Please write any comments or thoughts you may have to Erin Williams, 145 Neilson Rd., New Salem MA 01355. Thank you!

- Molly Kaynor

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MORMON HOLLOW ROAD • WENDELL, MA 01379

Timely Events

WENDELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Wendell Historical Society is seeking more members. We meet on the second Monday of every month at 7PM at the Senior Center. All are welcome to attend.

We have many projects and goals. We are interested in promoting and preserving Wendell's history, past and present. Maggie Houghton and David Wilder are video taping interviews with local elders. Preserving and permanently housing the society's collection of historical documents and photographs is an important concern. Fundraising and public education are also important.

Community members who wish to become involved do not need to attend meetings. They may contact Judy Wilder or Linda Hickman, 544-8604.

Linda Hickman

Health ✓

BREAST HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE
Free Clinics

The Family Planning Council of Western Mass.' Breast Health Project provides physical exams, breast and pelvic exams, Pap smears and referrals for free mammograms and coloscopies at sites in Greenfield, Northampton and Amherst.

Women are eligible to receive these services at no cost if they are uninsured (or pay a high deductible) and are over the age of 40. Younger, uninsured women may also take advantage of these services if they have a mother or sister who has had breast cancer. In the case of Medicare patients, the Project will pay for a mammogram every other year, when Medicare does not pick up the cost.

To schedule an appointment at a clinic, call the number indicated:

Amherst
One Thursday per month, 3pm to 4:30pm
Kaiser Permanente Administr. Offices
170 University Drive
413-586-2539 for an appointment.

Northampton
Every other Tuesday, 4:45pm to 7:30pm
Family Planning Council of Western Mass. Medical Offices
16 Center Street (above the Iron Horse)
413-586-2539 for an appointment.

Greenfield
Every other Tuesday, 4:45pm to 7:30pm
Family Planning Council of Western Mass. Medical Offices
80 Sanderson Street
413-773-5403 for an appointment.

--The Breast Health Project

Diemand's Farm
Wendell, Ma.
(508) 544-3806

Raised locally:
fresh brown eggs
*fresh Thanksgiven turkeys
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maple syrup
cord wood
lumber
as well as
catered chicken B-B-Q
A family business since 1936
*please pre-order

Calling All Buckeroos

RIDERS IN THE SKY
TO GIVE FAMILY PERFORMANCE

Riders in the Sky, America's pre-eminent Western music trio, will perform a Family Concert in Greenfield on April 20, 1996, 7:00 PM at Greenfield High School. Audiences love the Riders' oddball marriage of old-fashioned cowboy music and sly shtick that somehow sounds like Sons of the Pioneers-meet-Bullwinkle the Moose. The April 20 performance is sponsored by the Business Fund for the Arts in Franklin County. Tickets are $15 for adults and $8 for children 12 and under, and may be purchased at the Arts Council of Franklin County, corner of Main and Franklin Streets, Greenfield. Call the Arts Council for information and ticket reservations at 413-772-6811.

Since 1977 Riders in the Sky have been pleasing audiences all over America with their performances, recordings, and radio and TV shows. The Riders' immaculate three-part harmonies, precise acoustic accompaniment, straight off the range Western music and vaudeville skits have introduced a new generation of fans to a long-dormant style of cowboy music. They have a wholesome, family show that 2-year-olds and grandparents can all enjoy.

The Riders themselves--Too Slim, Woody Paul and Ranger Doug--are a fairly peculiar lot. Ranger Doug has a master's degree in literature from Vanderbilt; Too Slim a masters in Agriculture from Univ. of Michigan; and Woody Paul (described as "The man with the eight-gallon head in a ten-gallon hat") a doctorate in physics from MIT. They categorize themselves as "the most needlessly educated guys in America." Instead of beginning with an analyst's notion of exploiting a marketplace niche, they evolved as three guys who like to dress up in cowboy outfits and play out-of-fashion music. When an interviewer asked Woody Paul how he got to this point from a doctoral degree in physics, Paul thought a moment, and then said, "It's a quantum leap."

Yodeling, cardboard cacti, roping demonstrations, slapstick humor, Tom Mix-era costumes (big hats, fuzzy chaps, Western shirts with pearl snapbuttons), advice and wisdom -- Always drink upstream from the herd; Never squat with your spurs on; When in doubt, harmonize--are all part of the Riders in the Sky performance. You don't have to be an original fan of the Sons of the Pioneers to appreciate their rendition of "Tumbling Tumbleweeds". The Riders' performance is a welcome sojourn back to the days of Gabby Hayes, John Wayne, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry.

For more info and tickets, call the Arts Council at 413-772-6811.

THE DIEMAND CUTTER HAIRSTYLING SHOP
For the Whole Family
Next to the Egg Farm on the Millers Falls/Wendell Line

(508) 544-3045
(not long distance in Franklin County)

*114 Morman Hollow Rd * Millers Falls, MA 01349*

Wendell's Silver Scene

Film Series Triumphant

The Total Eclipse Film Series walked into the sunset with its last showing on Sunday, March 3rd. We would like to thank everyone who helped out and, of course, everyone who attended. We especially want to recognize Dan Keller for his generous help and assistance in the actual projection of the films. Every night he would trudge in with his projector, monitor, toolbox, box of cables and extension cords, and a good attitude--not to mention the 8-foot wide professional quality screen. When one film was damaged, he repaired it in his shop. The movies went off without a single hitch with Dan in the projection booth. The one night he couldn't make it, he was on 24 hour support via telephone. And if that wasn't enough, Dan also allowed us to show one of his films, put us in contact with several other film makers, and enthusiastically supported us throughout.

Rosie Heidkamp saved the day by using powers that only librarians seem to have to break through gobs of red tape at the Boston Public Library. One short phone call was all it took to get the film in the mail. Well, maybe two phone calls--well, maybe three--we don't want to trivialize her contribution. Without Rosie's help the last night of the film series would have been a fizzle instead of a bang.

Finally we thank Shirley White for fixing our sound--now we know how that thing works; Paul Wanta for postering and helping set up/take down/set up/take down...; Ingrid Shockey for painting the sign; Robbie Lepzer for technical support; Al Miller and Bob Leet for opening doors; Sally Stuffin for operating the popcorn machine in a pinch; Steve Broll, Ina and Mason Phelps whose 100% attendance rate brought a constancy to the whole affair; and finally, the Wendell Cultural Council for their generous support.

Heather Lenz and Tom Webler

All Town Play Place

Recreation Comm. Seeks Community Input on Playground

Last Fall a group of parents approached the Selectboard with a proposal to clean up and refurbish the playground near the Town Offices. The Selectboard held a Public Hearing to gather community input on the long-term goals of the playground and adjoining space.

At that time the Selectboard appointed a subcommittee of the Rec Comm to make recommendations for refurbishing the equipment. Soon after--and thanks to the efforts of Regina Curtis, Jim Hebert, and Annie Diemand--Wendell received a D.A.R.E. grant of nearly $8,000 to spend on refurbishing existing playground equipment.

The Playground Subcommittee would like your input and suggestions. This means kids as well as adults. Our immediate concerns are how to meets the needs of kids from toddlers to teenagers.

Should the existing equipment be repaired, moved, or replaced? What kind of fence would you like to see? How can the playground complement the rest of the Common? How can vandalism be minimized and safety be increased? Should we purchase new or used equipment? Or is there enough volunteer support for a do-it-yourself approach? What do you envision for that space? How can it be a place that gives our children safety, fun, and exercise? How can it be a place that parents and children meet and pass beautiful summer days together?

I myself would like to see a round wooden bench build around the maple in the playground center and a white picket fence to keep kids from wandering into the road. Flowers or shrubs (maybe *rosa rugosa*?) could be planted along the fence line. Whatever your thoughts, please send them along now. We plan to present recommendations to the Selectboard in April.

Tom Webler
544-7201

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379
TOWN HALL 508 544 3395

~Selectboard Minutes~

Wendell Selectboard Meeting December 12, 1995 - Minutes -
The meeting convened at 7:00p.m. Board members present were: Anne Zak, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. Warrants were signed and correspondence reviewed.

Also present were: Michael Broad from Franklin County Housing Authority and Eric Wight, Wendell's Building Inspector. The members of the Selectboard signed the papers of Substantial Completion for the FCRHA's Grant for 1995.

The Board received letters from EOCD and Representative Steve Kulik regarding the new grant award.

Board members discussed and signed the Swallow Rise conservation restriction.

A letter was received from the FCSWMD regarding the Northfield Compost Facility.

Board members signed the Liquor License Certification for ABCC.

The Selectboard discussed a few Town Hall rental requests.

Sarah Greenleaf requested permission to burn candles at the town hall. Board will speak with Everett Ricketts, Wendell Fire chief, about this issue.

Josh Dostis requested a waiver of residency and police coverage policies. The Board agreed to the residency waiver requirement only. Everyone must notify the police of the time and date of their event.

The Board voted to discontinue the Good Neighbors' Group at the Town Office site.

Board members discussed zoning issues with Eric Wight, Building Inspector.

Regina Curtis and Bob Leet attended a second Septic Grant Workshop meeting on December 2, 1995.
The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Scully
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting December 19, 1995 - Minutes -
The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. Also present were Doug Turner, Reporter and Elizabeth Scully, Selectboard Clerk. The minutes were read and approved, warrants sgned and correspondence reviewed.

The Tax Rate for the Town of Wendell was set by the DOR at $20.52 per thousand.

The Selectboard signed: * A Town Hall Rental form for a New Year's Eve Party.

* The Assignment of Title for the International truck to the Diemand Egg Farm purchased at the Wendell Town Auction.

* The 1996 Motor Vehicle Licenses for Kenneth Wing, Michael Wing, Robin Pierce and Mormon Hollow Auto.

The Board received a letter from the Massachusetts Highway Department regarding the Wendell Depot Bridge at Miller's River. They will be going out for bid on 12/23/95.

Board members named Margo Culley as Representative to the Franklin County Advisory Board of Selectmen.

Ted Lewis was named representative to the Swift River School Bargaining Unit.

Regina Curtis notified all departments that the deadline for articles for the Town Report is January 30, 1995.

A notice from the Massachusetts Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Board was received regarding Draft Statewide Mapping and Screening Protocol.

The Franklin County Solid Waste District sent a Recycling Report.
The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Scully
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 9, 1996 - Minutes -
The meeting convened at 7:00p.m. Members present were: Anne Zak, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. Also present: Joe Coll and Elizabeth Scully. The minutes were read and approved, warrants were signed and correspondence was reviewed.

An open discussion of complaints of a strong odor coming from the D&B landfill took place. Those in attendance were: Dean Bennett and Don Adams representing the landfill, Bob Leet from the Board of Health, Virginia and Bob Wheeler, the Thompsons and Nina Keller, neighbors of the landfill.

Don Adams said the odors are coming from the vents and an activated charcoal ventilation system has been ordered and will be installed in a week or two.

The Wheelers asked if they intend to do any more blasting and the response from Dean and Don Adams was that they expect to do more in the spring. They promised to notify neighbors prior to blasting and will install seismographs in the homes to register any damage to plastered walls etc.

Nina Keller asked about the blasting effect on wells and water in the area. Mr. Adams said they monitor water purity and have had zero impact on it.

next pg→

Town Brainstorm

ATTENTION ALL TOWN DEPARTMENTS:
There will be an **ALL-BOARD MEETING** on ***Tuesday, April 30th at 7:00 pm*** at the Wendell Senior Center to discuss the Community Action Statement, long-term goals for the Town Common and many other topics of interest to members of local government.
Every Department, Commission and Board member in Wendell are encouraged to come and join the discussion - this is a great opportunity to express ideas and concerns, as well as to learn about the activities of other Wendell departments. See you then!

Plan Ahead

NO MORE GAS

AT WENDELL COUNTRY STORE

The Wendell Country Store shut off the town's only gas pumps at the end of February.

Owners Patti and Vic Scutari cite many reasons for the decision: theft ($1,000 in gas lost per year), aging pumps, and high insurance and delivery costs. The clincher, they say, was the new state regulations which will be in effect by 1998, requiring over-spill protection and vapor recovery among other improvements, at a cost of over $20,000.

"This is just a continuation of the big guys putting the little guys out of business--it's the American way," says Vic. "People should get into the habit of filling up before coming home."

Expressing regret over this difficult decision, Patti said, "We were providing a security blanket for people and now getting gas will be a tremendous hardship, especially in winter."

The closest gas stations are now eight miles away in Millers Falls and Orange. North Leverett and the center of Shutesbury had stations some time ago.

Selectboard Member Ann Zak, a former owner of the Wendell Country Store, installed the last set of underground tanks. Ann felt that, while the new regulations are good environmentally, the regulators should be encouraged to evaluate the effects of the process on stations with low volume. She said there used to be exceptions to some regulations for 1500-gallon tanks. She also mentioned the idea of installing above-ground tanks.

Patti stated, "We had been selling gas for the goodwill of the community, and I feel grateful to our loyal customers."

Gloria Kegeles

InterNetworks
Judy Grupenhoff
Web Site Development
Internet Training
47 Old Stage Road
Wendell, MA 01379
Phone: (508) 544-8019
Fax: (508) 544-5334
Email: inetwork@tiac.net

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379

TOWN HALL 508 544 3395

Nina Keller will call Margo Culley after the two-week period to discuss a follow-up meeting should the ventilation system not work.

Regarding Town Hall rentals the Board decided renters should be reminded that they must notify the Police Department prior to the event. Also, anyone intending to use candles for any reason, must get a permit from the Fire Chief.

Regina Curtis will research the costs to the Town of Wendell for Swift River School dumping at WRATS.

The Route 2 Task Force will meet at the Orange Town Hall on January 18, 1996 at 7:00p.m. Anne Zak will attend.

Ms. Curtis reported the Town has received $165.69 from the DEM for "stumpage fee" (MGL Ch. 58 Sec.17C which requires the state to pay a town a portion of the revenues received for logging state-owned lands). This is the first time Wendell has received such a payment, Ms. Curtis said.

The Board received a copy of the Swift River School Committee meeting agenda and minutes for their review.

The Board received a copy of the Swift River School Committee meeting agenda and minutes for their review.

The Board members discussed the Wickett Pond dog complaints (it was reported Mr. Marceau's dog barked incessantly on New Year's Day). Ms. Zak will call Mr. Marceau.

There will be a Franklin County Coop Inspection meeting on January 18, 1996.

Green Thumb of New England's request for a donation was o.k.'d by the Selectboard.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Scully

Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 16, 1996 - Minutes -

The meeting convened at 7:00p.m. Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis.

Anne Zak signed the letter re: the DPH request.

The Massachusetts Historic funds were received and the vendors were paid.

Regina Curtis will attend the EOCD Economic Development workshop in Boston on January 24, 1996.

The Franklin County Commission will be conducting a forum for electricity pricing on January 25, 1996 at 7:00p.m.

There will be a Franklin County Inspection Program meeting on January 18, 1996.

The MEMA Generic Incident Command Training (with terrorism focus) is scheduled for January 31, 1996.

Winter By-law voted on by the Selectboard:

"Anyone in violation of MGL85 section 7B (depositing snow on the highway) shall be fined $25.00 for the first infraction and $50.00 for every violation thereafter. This applies to homeowners and private snowplowing contractors."

The water filtration system at the Town Hall has been completed.

The Fire Department is taking responsibility for filling the temporary skating rink on the Common. Winter Fun Day is scheduled for January 28, 1996 from 1 to 4:00 p.m. There will be ice skating, a campfire, and snow sculpting organized by the Recreation Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Scully

Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 23, 1996 - Minutes -

The meeting convened at 7:00p.m. Members present were: Anne Zak and Ted Lewis. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator. Warrants were signed and correspondence reviewed.

The Board is in receipt of draft deeds from DCPO which will convey the land for the new cemetery. They will be sent to Attorney John Gates for his perusal.

Steve Kulik has scheduled Wendell office hours for February 8, 1996 at 1:30 p.m.

Ms. Curtis received word today from Steve Kulik's office that funding for the Wendell Depot culvert has been approved and paperwork should be received within two weeks.

A meeting to view Morse Village Rd. is scheduled for February 20, 1996 at 3:00 p.m. at the Wendell Town Hall.

A meeting to view the dry hydrant sites is scheduled for February 23, 1996.

The Selectboard will meet with the Highway Department to discuss the Town Common on February 17, 1996 at 9:00 a.m.

The LLRW will meet at the Bangs Center in Amherst on February 2, 1996 at 2:00p.m.

Also the Bangs Center will be the site for a Public Session on Draft Statewide Mapping and Screening Protocol and Procedures.

The Board discussed the insurance renewals for the Town of Wendell.

Ms. Curtis received approval of an extension for the Local Partnership contract to March 30, 1996.

Our Man in the Senate

On January 8, 1996 Senator Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst) became the first Western Mass legislator to be appointed Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, which is responsible for assembling the State's roughly $17 billion annual budget and reviewing all major pieces of legislation. Stan Rosenberg came to the Ways and Means position after serving one year as Chairman of the Banks and Banking Committee, where he won Senate approval for an interstate banking bill.

Prior to that, Stan served as co-chairman of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Election Laws and has been a catalyst behind some fundamental changes in the Massachusetts political system.

In 1993, the Committee's "motor voter" bill signed into law, making Massachusetts one of the most convenient states in the nation for voter registration. Then in 1994, the Committee's campaign finance reform bill became law. This law reduces the influence of private money on public policymaking by placing tough restrictions on the amount of money lobbyists, political action committees and individuals may contribute to political candidates. MassPIRG has called this law one of the strictest in the nation.

Stan is a 1977 graduate of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where he worked for eight years, first as director of the Arts Extension Service and then as director of the Community Development and Human Service Programs in the Division of Continuing Education.

Stan also worked as an aide to former state Senator (now U.S. Representative) John Olver from 1980-83, as a staff member of the Massachusetts Democratic Party from 1983-85, and as the district director for U.S. Representative Chester Atkins from 1985-86.

Stan was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1986 and served as the representative for Amherst and Pelham until 1991 when he won a special election for the state Senate seat vacated by Congressman Olver.

Stan began serving Wendell after redistricting shifted this community to him in 1994. Stan followed Senator Robert Wetmore's capable representation of the district successfully and enthusiastically. His efforts, in concert with State Representative Stephen Kulik, to procure a $5,000 grant for the Town Hall Well Fund demonstrates his commitment to the struggles small towns grapple with every day.

On behalf of the entire Wendell community, the Selectboard extends it congratulations to Stan. The Board looks forward to working with him on the many issues that affect local government and its citizens.

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TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379
TOWN HALL 508 544 3395

The Board received the approved final budget for Swift River School.
There will be a meeting of the Local Partnership Group on January 30, 1996 at 3:00 p.m. Also:

- ... Wendell Business/Home Business Association
  January 29, 1996 at 7:00p.m. at the Wendell Senior Center
- ... Community Supported Agriculture
  January 30, 1996 at 7:00p.m. at Hemlock Hill Farm,
  90 Locke's Village Rd.
- ... Wendell Arts and Crafts Marketing Cooperative
  January 31, 1996 at 7:00p.m. at the Wendell Senior Center.

The Selectboard and the Board of Health received a letter from the Town of Greenfield regarding landfill disposal.
Regina Curtis will attend the EOCD Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing, topic to be: One Year Action Plan on February 5, 1996.
The Board received correspondence from the Franklin County Community Health Center Planning Group.
Board members were informed of water in an electric fixture in the new Senior Center bathroom.
The meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Scully
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 30, 1996 - Minutes -
The meeting convened at 7:00p.m. Members present were: Anne Zak, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. The minutes were read and approved and warrants were signed.
Anne Zak, Chairwoman, signed the contract for the grant which will fund the repairs to Morse Village Road and install three dry hydrants in Wendell.
Anne Zak gave a report on the Local Partnership meeting. Fourteen Wendell citizens attended this meeting, the topic of which was local businesses.
Board members discussed the dispersal of administrative funds for the Local Partnership.
A Shade Tree Hearing is scheduled for March 19, 1996.
Mandy Chase was invited to attend the Selectboard meeting so that the Board members could award her a certificate in gratitude for her many years of service as a telephone responder for the Wendell Police Force.
It was decided that Town Hall renters must notify the Board within 10 days of cancellation or forfeit 50% of their fee. Extreme weather will be the only exception.
Board members discussed exit signs and smoke detectors for the Senior Center. Anne Zak will contact Al Miller in this regard.
Plans for the renovation of the Town Hall kitchen were also discussed.
The Selectboard will tour the town roads to check on unregistered vehicles and to make sure all homes display house numbers.
Places of the Heart literature, the Town Common, crosswalks and warning signs before stop signs on Montague and Morse Village Roads were also topics of discussion.
A meeting of the Advisory Board of Wendell Citizens and Lake Grove School is scheduled for February 15, 1996. Ted Lewis will attend.
The meeting adjourned at 8:05p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Scully
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting February 6, 1996 - Minutes -
The meeting convened at 7:00. Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present were Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, Holly Brooks, Greenfield REcorder, Joe Coll, Athol Daily News, and Wanita Sears. Warrants were signed and correspondence reviewed.
Wanita Sears was interviewed and appointed by the Board for the position of Selectboard Clerk.
Regina Curtis attended the EOCD Public Hearing for the upcoming Community Development Block Grant cycle. Discussed Partnership Program possible grant application. All department wish lists are due April 12, 1996. Public forum for town assessment of Community Action Statement is due July 1. Grant date is August 9, 1996.
All abutters of the Town Common have been notified of the Public Meeting on Saturday, February 17, 1996, in front of th eTown Hall to gather information on suggested uses and improvements.

HANDING OVER THE QUILL

On Thursday, February 1st, Tow ffice friends of Elizabeth Scully held her farewell from her post as Selectboard Clerk. Elizabeth resigned from that position after 6 years of dedicated service. Her friendly face and helpful hand will be greatly missed! Elizabeth assures us that she'll continue to be a visiting presence at the Town Offices.
The Selectboard has appointed Wanita Sears as the new Clerk. Wanita lives on Farley Road with her husband Joel and daughters Emily and Erin. Wanita and Joel run a store, *Bear Mountain Traders*, in New Salem and are also involved in the proposed Farmer's Market in Wendell. Welcome to the Selectboard Office!

WHAT'S NEEDED!

New directory makes it easy to do business locally

Millers River Business Directory links you with more than 1,000 businesses and services

Need a plumber? a doctor? an advertising expert? a sand blaster? There's little reason to look outside the North Quabbin region for services you need near home. Get the region's most complete listing for small businesses and other organizations: the Millers River Business Directory.

The Directory is available at the CDC's office, 134 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol. The Directory is also available on the Internet. The Internet version is currently in the testing stage.

The Directory not only provides you a business' phone and street address but also the full mail address, e-mail address, and fax number. Your basic listing is free. The directory lists virtually every business—even the smallest—in Athol, Erving, Petersham, Phillipston, New Salem, Orange, Royalston, Warwick, and Wendell. If you are interested in having a larger presence in the on-line version, contact us for advertising details.

Spending your money locally strengthens the region's economy. Everyone benefits from local spending: the more dollars circulating within our region the fewer that flow out and the more jobs we create and keep in the area.

So whether you're looking for flying lessons, a dating service, or lightning protection, you can find it in the 1996 Miller River Business Directory. *Call Dave Dumery at 508-249-9295.* □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WENDELL'S PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS
Total voting: 41 Republicans:25
7% Democrats: 15
Libertarian: 1
Republican for President:
Richard Lugar 3, Morrey Taylor 0, Phil Gramm 1, Patrick Buchanan 9, Bob Dole 5, Steven Forbes 3, Lamar Alexander 2, Alan Keys 2, Robert Dornan 0.
Democrat for President:
President Bill Clinton 14, Lindon Larouche 1.
Libertarian for President:
Harry Brown 1.
Dem. State Committeeman: Rosenberg 14
Dem. State Committeewoman: Ford 12
Rep. State Committeeman: Casale 11
Rep. State Committeewoman: Hassett 12
Wendell Town Dem. Committee: Ann Diemand 15, Jane Marshall 4. Write-ins elected: Kathy Becker, Joe Diemand, Dan Keller, Claire Stewart.

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~Selectboard Minutes~

The Town received a letter from Representative Steve Kulick's office that Wendell would receive a $8000 increase in Lottery Funds. His letter also noted that preliminary Snow funding was being discussed.

The Board was notified that Franklin County Engineering is considering charging a fee for their future services.

Regina Curtis and Board discussed possible Small Town Road Assistance Program grant funding.

Request For Proposal will be issued for Morse Village Road reconstruction and dry hydrants.

Steve Kulik will have office hours Thursday, February 8, 1996 at 1:30.

The new Open Space Bond Bill, as passed, includes language to establish a payment in lieu of taxes study committee.

The Town of New Bedford requested the Board join them in supporting a change in the mandatory sentence for illegal gun possession from 1 year to 2 years. All Board members agreed to not honor this request.

Finance Committee met with Board briefly to discuss FY '97 budget.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.
Respectfully submitted
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting February 13, 1996 - Minutes
The meeting convened at 7:00. Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present were Holly Brooks, Greenfield REcorder; Joe Coll, Athol Daily News; and Wanita Sears, Clerk. Warrants and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed.

The Board received a thank you card from Elizabeth Scully, their Clerk for the last 6 years.

Linda Hickman appeared before the Board requesting their permission to have a Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings at the Town Common. The Board was happy to grant this request. They did ask her to check with the Board of Health for any restrictions. Parking will be in front of the cemetery. Linda will return with dates and times in the future.

Ted Lewis will attend the Swift River Teacher Negotiation meeting Thursday, February 15, 1996.

Anne Zak will attend the Lake Grove Community Advisory Meeting Thursday, February 15, 1996.

Margo Culley received a phone call that the Full Moon Coffeehouse had recently had a large attendance and there was concern about exit signs and smoke alarms. Everett Ricketts, Fire Chief, will correct the problem.

The Board discussed the need for a Spring Cleaning Day at the Town Hall. A request for volunteers and date for cleanup will be decided soon.

Bridge Inspection Report received from the State on the iron bridge on Farley Rd.

Letter received from Green Thumb regarding Jessie Wetherby's conditions for return to work.

Shelburne Control sent newsletter on 911 system.

Regina Curtis will attend the FEMA Snow Disaster Assistance workshop Wednesday, February 14, 1996.

Discussed PILOT money from the Open Space Bill Bond.

Recap sheet of Early Resolution for Local Aid Figures signed.

Wendell property taxes are due Saturday February 17, 1996.

Board signed Election warrant.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.
Respectfully submitted
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting February 20, 1996 - Minutes -
Members present were Anne Zak and Margo Culley. Ted Lewis was ill. Also present were Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator; Holly Brooks, Greenfield Recorder, and Wanits Sears. Correspondence was reviewed. Warrant and minutes were signed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

The Board expressed concern over the shutdown of the gas pumps at the Wendell Country Store. They noted it was not necessarily a Board matter but of great importance to the community.

The Town Common Public Meeting is rescheduled to February 24, 1996 at 9:00 due to the storm on 2/17/96.

Margo Culley was notified by Shirley White that the Wiring Inspector would not inspect any sites not done by a licensed electrician. Shirley believes there is a law to the contrary. This will be researched.

Anne Zak signed a truck title for a Town truck sold to Don Ellis.

An invitation was received from the American Red Cross to meet their new Executive Director on February 28, 1996 at Bricker's Restaurant.

Massachusetts Municipal Association notified the Board that the House of Representatives has passed the Local Aid Resolution.

Received letter from the Summer Youth Program that funding may be cut off.

Environmental League of Massachusetts letter asked for support in draft of rules strictly limiting off road vehicle use in state forests and parks.

Letter signed on Swift River Construction Reimbursement. Michael Idoine will resume AD HOC talks.

Ms. Curtis filed notice to claim FEMA Snow Relief monies.

Letter received from School Bus Safety Committee on residences without street numbers visible. Board will be issuing letters to all residences violating this law due to school as well as emergency safety. There will be fines to those not complying.

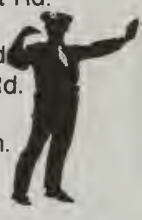
→ next

LAND TRANSFERS

12/01/95 Taylor to Higgins, land & house, $76,000, Locke's Village Rd, 2.26 ac.
12/11/95 Stonybrook Properties to Schley & Laur, land, $27,900, Farley Rd, 6.559 ac.
12/22/95 Stonybrook Properties to Tenerowicz, land, $24,500, Farley Rd, 8.952 ac.
12/22/95 Stonybrook Properties to Jenkins, land, $17,900, Farley Rd, 7.624 ac.
12/29/95 Ellis to Mt Grace Land, land, $60,000, Old Farley Rd, 35 ac.
12/29/95 Phelps to Swallow Rise, land, $30,000, Wendell Depot Rd, 8.781 ac.
12/29/95 Idoine to Swallow Rise, land, $30,000, Wendell Depot Rd, 8.781 ac.
12/29/95 Swallow Rise to Phelps, land, $9,000, Wendell Depot Rd, 10 ac.
12/29/95 Phelps to Mass Audubon Society, $18,000, land, Wendell Depot Rd, 20.65 ac.

WENDELL POLICE LOG

12-22-95 Domestic- Wendell Depot Rd
12-23-95 Accident- Mormon Hollow R d.
12-23-95 Suspicious vehicle- Montague Rd
12-24-95 Check welfare- Lake Grove School.
12-27-95 Missing person- Wendell Dpot Rd.
12-31-95 Accident- Wendell Dpot Rd.
01-04-96 Suspicious Vehicle- Depot Rd
01-05-96 Disabled MV- Lockes Village Rd.
01-06-96 Accident- no street given.
01-07-96 Traffic Hazard- no street given.
01-13-96 Accident- Lockes Village Rd.
01-13-96 MV stuck at the town line.
01-13-96 Suspicious person- Lockes Village Rd.
01-14-96 Keys taken from vehicle- Montague Rd.
01-15-96 Alarm- Jennison Rd.
01-19-96 Assist Fire- Wendell Depot Rd.
01-23-96 911 call investigated- Wendell Depot Rd.
01-27-96 Accident- Cooleyville Rd.
02-03-96 Suspicious vehicle on a dirt road.
02-08-96 Disabled vehicle- Jennison Rd.
02-10-96 Building check- Lockes Village Rd.
02-10-96 Larceny- East Main St.
02-11-96 Three cows in road- Wendell Depot Rd.
02-12-96 Accident- Plain Rd.
02-16-96 School bus stuck- Mormon Hollow Rd.
02-16-96 Disabled MV- Farley Rd.
02-16-96 Safety Hazard- Bus and car carrier stuck on New Salem Rd.
02-25-96 Safety Hazard-large branch on Wendell Depot Rd.
02-25-96 Request to speak with an officer re:CHINS order. Wickett Pond Rd.
02-27-96 Trespass- Wendell Depot Rd.
02-27-96 Safety Hazard- Wren Gould Rd.
02-28-96 Request to speak with an officer re: possible 209A violation.
03-02-96 Check destruction to building- Wendell Depot Rd.



Jerry Eide
Hill Town Restoration
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Specializing in Preservation Techniques

~Selectboard Minutes~

Notice was received of the position of Secretary at Swift River School being open. Shutesbury School is looking for an Assistant Custodian.

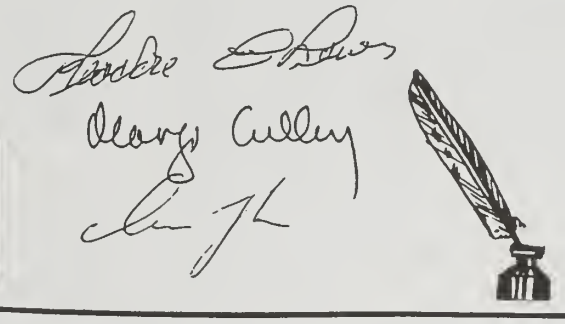
Swift River School Budget Committee meeting will be held on February 22, 1996.

Anne Zak will attend the Franklin County Transportation Meeting on February 29, 1996 on the Route 2 study.

Anne Zak will go to Harrisville meeting on February 22, 1996 as Regina Curtis is unable to attend.

Anne Zak reported on the Lake Grove Advisory meeting she attended. Their population now is at 30. They are concentrating on quality of their program and not quantity. Staff is constantly updated on training and new regulations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.
Respectfully submitted
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk



NOTES ... **Free help with your income tax!** CDC Board member Steve Raymond is offering tax preparation for low-income people. Call Diane at 249-9295.

IBM XT computers just $59!
Printers: $45 to $100 • Modems: $10 and $30
Call the Computer Department at 249-9295
Millers River CDC
March computer training classes

- Computer Basics: Introduction to DOS–3/19
- Introduction to Spreadsheet Use–3/20
- Introduction to Word Processing–3/21
- Basics, Word Processing, & Spreadsheets–3/30

(Please take Computer Basics first if you're not familiar with DOS.)One class...$10. All three...$25.

Call about intermediate courses in DOS and on-line communication! *Steve Rowe 508-249-9295*

SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

School Committee News

The school committee is currently working with Superintendent Len Lubinsky on a 1997 budget for the Swift River School. We are hoping that it will be possible to hire a part-time art teacher for the fall, but it is unclear whether this will be feasible given our financial constraints. The school has been without an art program for several years now. Also under consideration is a proposal to hire a new, part-time special education teacher, a resource which is much needed at the school at this time.

Members of the Wendell school commmittee met with Mike Idoine and other members of the Wendell finance committee to discuss reconvening the ad hoc committee concerning school construction reimbursement grants. It is the hope of all involved that this matter can be resolved in the near future.

Arlene Berkowitz-Vova, the assistant to the superintendent, met with the Wendell selectboard on Februrary 27 to discuss on-going projects at the Swift River School including the relocation of the school's fuel tanks. Arlene said that it is likely that this work will be completed either this spring or before school begins again in the fall. The meeting was very informative and productive.

On Februrary 28, Wendell school committee members Chris Ewell, Christine Heard and Beth McConnell attended the Union #28 meeting in Erving, where a new budget for 1996-97 was unanimously adopted. This budget contains only small increases over the current, 1995-96 budget. School committee members also heard reports from Superintendent Lubinsky about state aid and grants for the coming year, which include new monies of approximately 20,000 dollars to benefit the Early Childhood Program at the Swift River School.

In other news, the school committee is very sorry to hear that Debbie Puchalski, who has been the school secretary at the Swift River School for almost ten years, will be leaving at the end of March for a new position at the University of Massachusetts. Debbie has been central to the operations of the school and will be missed by everyone. We would like to thank her for all her years of service at the school and wish her the best of luck at her new job.

---The Wendell School Committee

SMILY POST

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

5 ¢ (cheap)

Not very important
****** important

RULES
1. No fighting, in other words Speace!
2. No going under the desk!
3. Respect your Surrondings!
4. if you have to go to the bathroom Speak up!

IF YOU FORGET THE RULES, THERE ARE SOMEON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

brought to you by

Eric Dew
Vic Scutari

Advertisement

Wendell Country Store
(Monday-Saturday 7:30am-9pm,
Sunday 9am-8pm)
544-8646

Wendell Post
Kathy Becker
544-2086

S

Schools
Swift River Elementary
Len Lubinsky, Superintendent

Len Strauss, Principal
544-6926

1-413-659-3337
544-6926

Fire	544-3412
Police	544-7448
Ambulance	544-2727
Poison	1-800-682-9211
State Police	249-4341

Bob Ellis' "Trailing Arbutus" to be Raffled

In May a raffle will be held to benefit the Mahar High School Drama Club. The original watercolor pictured above, by Wendell artist Bob Ellis, will be raffled at $10 per ticket; a limited number of tickets will be sold.

Please contact Doug Tanner for more information or for tickets at 544-2067.

Plant Swap

9th ANNUAL /PERENNIAL
PLANT SWAP

SUNDAY MAY 19TH
*10am - noon
rain or shine
WENDELL COMMON

Trade a plant with a neighbor. Bring a friend. Celebrate our love of gardening.

For info, call Rosie 544-8457.

Literary Yearnings?

WRITING WORKSHOPS

TO BE FORMED

call: Jonathon von Ranson 544-3758
Nina Keller 544-2857

Art Studio/ Garden Tour

July 21, 1996

The new Wendell arts & crafts cooperative is looking for artists and gardeners to show their studios and/or gardens in the Wendell tour being planned for Sunday, July 21 and open to the public.

Interested people please call Kate Neilson at 544-5444 and leave a message with name, phone number and address.

A planning meeting will be held for those interested in working on or participating in the tour on Monday, May 20 at 7pm in the Senior Center.

WENDELL FARMERS & GARDNERS' MARKET

Starting in mid to late April there will be a Farmers and Gardners' Market on the town common every Saturday from 10 AM to 1 PM. The purpose of this market is to encourage agriculture and gardening in Wendell and to connect local consumers with area growers.

The idea of a farmers market in Wendell has been discussed in the last few years by various residents. The Wendell Economic Partnership set up an agricultural focus group last year. This group has met a number of times and has decided on a farmers market as their first primary focus.

The selectboard has enthusiastically supported the idea and gave their permission for siting the market on the common.

Gardeners are encouraged to grow surplus produce for the market. For more information, contact Linda Hickman, 544-8604.

Linda Hickman

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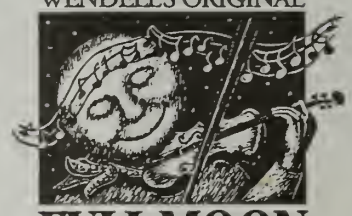
18 Kellogg Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002

WENDELL'S ORIGINAL



FULL MOON
COFFEEHOUSE

Upcoming Events

APRIL 13th

BOOGALOO SWAMIS
to benefit
Wendell Fire Dept.

MAY 4th

SLEEVELESS THEATER
to benefit
Traprock Peace Center

JUNE 1st

SALAMANDER CROSSING
to benefit
Town Playground Project

Open Mike at 7:30
Dessert-O-Rama
Always a Benefit!
Sliding Scale Admission

At the Town Hall
Wendell, Massachusetts

You are Invited

to a Joint Recital

Saturday, April 13, 1996
3:30 p.m.

Deerfield Academy
2nd floor
Reed Center for the Arts
Memorial Building

Laura Doughty — Mezzo-Soprano

Jamie Goodnow — Piano

Diane Bruno-Kraichnan — Violin and Viola

Works of Bach, Mozart, Goodnow, and Brahms will be performed.

After many years of singing soprano repertoire, Laura Doughty of Wendell will debut her alto and mezzo repertoire.

Free admission. Contact Laura for more information at 544-5450.